Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – January 16, 2024

REPORTS

Item No. 18 By-Law for the Boundary Expansion of the Downtown Winnipeg Business Improvement Zone

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and recommended to Council:

1. That a By-law (draft attached as Attachment A) to amend the Downtown Winnipeg Business Improvement Zone By-law No. 8114/2002 to expand the boundaries of the Downtown Winnipeg Business Improvement Zone be enacted.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Rollins,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

Kate Fenske, CEO, Downtown Winnipeg BIZ, submitted a communication in support of the matter.

Administrative Report

Title: By-Law for the Boundary Expansion of the Downtown Winnipeg Business Improvement Zone

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
J. Veitch	H. Borys	N/A	M. Jack

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Downtown Winnipeg Business Improvement Zone, continued by By-Law No 8114/2002, is one of sixteen Business Improvement Zones within the City of Winnipeg.

The City Clerk's Department received a petition from a number of businesses located within the proposed expansion area, seeking to have the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ boundaries expanded, as outlined in Attachment B to this Report, to allow the inclusion of their business.

The proposed expansion follows the processes and procedures prescribed within the Business Improvement Zone Procedures By-Law No. 8111/2002 for expanding an existing Business Improvement Zone.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council enact a By-law (draft attached as Attachment A) to amend the Downtown Winnipeg Business Improvement Zone By-law No. 8114/2002 to expand the boundaries of the Downtown Winnipeg Business Improvement Zone.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

The City of Winnipeg Charter provides for the creation of a Business Improvement Zone (BIZ) by by-law. Changing the boundaries of the Downtown Winnipeg Business Improvement Zone (the "Downtown Winnipeg BIZ") requires an amendment to the Downtown Winnipeg Business Improvement Zone By-law No. 8114/2002.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no regulatory implications resulting from the proposed recommendations.

External organizations and the community at large will experience economic benefit from the proposed recommendations.

HISTORY / DISCUSSION

The City of Winnipeg By-Law No. 5080/89 created the Business Improvement Zone known as the Downtown Winnipeg Business Improvement Zone (the “Downtown Winnipeg BIZ”). The Downtown Winnipeg Business Improvement Zone By-law No. 8114/2002 continued the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ under the same name.

Business Improvement Zones (“BIZ”) are governed by a set of prescribed processes and procedures outlined within the Business Improvement Zone Procedures By-Law No. 8111/2002, which grants Council the authority to expand the boundaries of a BIZ to include additional businesses if certain steps are followed, namely:

1) A petition must be filed with the City signed by more than 50% of the proprietors in the proposed additional area of the zone representing more than 50% of the total taxable business assessment in the proposed area of the zone;

2) The City Clerk must give notice to all the businesses in the proposed additional area of the petition and must offer them an opportunity to object to the BIZ boundary expansion; and

3) The City Clerk must ensure that no more than one-third of the businesses in the proposed additional area representing at least one-third of the total taxable business assessment of the proposed additional area of the BIZ have objected in writing to the boundary expansion prior to the date set by the Clerk.

A petition was submitted and received by City Clerk’s on November 2, 2023 by “a number of businesses within the proposed expansion area, requesting an alteration of the boundaries to the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ.” Assessment and Taxation confirmed that the petition was signed by more than 50% of the proprietors in the proposed area of the zone and representing more than 50% of the total taxable business assessment in the proposed area of the zone.

The City Clerk’s Department confirmed that no objections were received for the proposed expansion of the boundaries to the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ. This was during the one month notice period, ending December 15, 2023, to all the businesses

Accordingly, the Winnipeg Public Service is recommending that Council enact the amending By-law, a draft of which is attached hereto as Attachment A, to expand the boundaries of the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ to include the proposed expanded area. Attachment B to this report shows the proposed expanded area more clearly.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: December 22, 2023

Project Name:

By-Law for the Boundary Expansion of the Downtown Winnipeg Business Improvement Zone

COMMENTS:

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

Mike McGinn Dec. 22, 2023

Mike McGinn, CPA, CA
Manager of Finance

CONSULTATION

In preparing this report there was consultation with:

- City Clerks
- Assessment and Taxation
- Legal Services (as to legal issues)
- Downtown Winnipeg Business Improvement Zone

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

01- A City that Works (Direction 4): Collaborate with all public, private and community economic development agencies to advance economic advantages.

Expansion of the Downtown Winnipeg Business Improvement Zone supports a thriving and vibrant Downtown as a citywide destination.

01- A City that Works (Direction 8): Encourage Activities Beneficial to the Winnipeg Economy.

Supporting the location and expansion of businesses within multiple business sectors supports economic growth both within the downtown community and city overall.

02- A Sustainable City (Direction 6) Plan for the sustainable development of healthy neighbourhoods based on their particular historic identity and character.

Support of the Downtown Winnipeg Business Improvement Zone and its expansion allows for the development of active, distinct, sustainable and vibrant districts.

03 – Quality of Life (Direction 6): Promote cleanliness and beautification.

Expansion of the Downtown Winnipeg Business Improvement Zone will enhance support for distinct identity, design and programs that enhance and promote the aesthetic appeal of public spaces and districts.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Climate Action Plan (CAP), and it was determined that the CAP is not applicable to this specific report.

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and its Goals and Objectives, and it was determined that the PRS is not applicable to this specific report.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Planning, Property and Development
Prepared by: Martin Pasieczka, Economic Development Officer & BIZ Liaison
Date: January 5, 2024

Attachment A

THE CITY OF WINNIPEG

BY-LAW NO. /2024

A By-law of THE CITY OF WINNIPEG to amend the Downtown Winnipeg Business Improvement Zone By-law No. 8114/2002.

THE CITY OF WINNIPEG, in Council assembled, enacts as follows:

Downtown Winnipeg Business Improvement Zone By-law amended

1 The Downtown Winnipeg Business Improvement Zone By-law No. 8114/2002 is amended by this By-law.

Schedule A deleted and replaced with Schedule "A"

2 Schedule A to By-law No. 8114/2002 is replaced with the document, identified as "Schedule "A" to By-law No. 8114/2002", attached to this By-law.

DONE AND PASSED, this day of , 2024.

_____
Mayor

_____
City Clerk

Approved as to content:

_____
Director of Planning, Property & Development

Legally Reviewed and Certified as to Form:

_____
For Director of Legal Services and
City Solicitor

DRAFT

SCHEDULE "A" TO BY-LAW NO. 8114/2022



Exchange District Business Improvement Zone

Attachment B

